

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Steven R. Moore, District I Mr. Kenneth E. Johns, Jr., District II
Rev. William "Bill" Rinehart, District III Mr. Marion E. Lyles, District IV
Mr. H. Frank Ables, Jr., District V

MINUTES, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Oconee County Council met Tuesday, February 3, 2004 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members and the County Attorney present.

Press:

Members of the press notified (via mail): Keowee Courier, Westminster News, Daily Journal, Anderson Independent, WGOG Radio, WYFF TV & WLOS TV.

Members of the press present: Ray Chandler – Daily Journal.

Other Organizations Notified:

Also notified were the Oconee County Tax Payers Association and the Oconee County Democratic Party.

Call to Order:

Interim Supervisor-Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order.

Invocation:

Mr. Rinehart gave the invocation.

Minutes:

By consensus, Council adopted the minutes of the regular meeting held January 20, 2004 as printed.

Corps of Engineers Agreement:

Upon recommendation of Sheriff Singleton, Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that the attached Cooperative Agreement between the Corps of Engineers and the Oconee County Sheriff's Department for lakeshore patrol beginning March 1, 2004 and ending October 31, 2004 be adopted. The estimated reimbursable services in this agreement are \$29,998.

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Memorandum of Understanding with Sewer Commission:

After Mr. Norton reviewed the attached *Memorandum of Understanding* between Oconee County and the Oconee County Sewer Commission, which states in part, the County and the Commission further agree:

The Commission shall continue to keep separate administrative, personnel and financial functions and records. The County shall not take any action that would cause funds held in Sewer Commission Accounts to be co-mingled or appropriated by the County.

The Commission shall be the sewer agency of the County in the unincorporated areas of Oconee County.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that the *Memorandum of Understanding* be adopted as presented.

Vehicle Needs Approved in Capital Improvement Plan:

Discussion and possible action regarding vehicle needs approved in the Capital Improvement Plan was referred back to the Planning Commission for clarification.

Supervisor's Report on Issues Affecting Oconee County:

Mr. James Alexander, Economic Development Director, informed Council the Oconee County Opportunities for Progress Committee is in the process of drafting bylaws. Some of their goals will be to assist new and existing industries in the community, enhance tourism in the County and work to enhance the quality of life here in the County. Mr. Alexander stated more information should be forthcoming in about sixty days.

Mr. Alexander also informed Council that US Engine Valve had received the Eaton Business Excellence Award.

Mr. Ronald Butts, Rural Fire Chief, informed Council the consultant had inspected the fire trucks and would be getting a report back to us in a couple of weeks.

Ms. Marianne Dillard, Procurement Director, informed Council that F. J. Clark had hired a consultant firm in relation to the Courthouse problems and we are waiting for them to meet with the Department of Justice in Washington at this time, she also informed Council that the Law Enforcement Center is a little behind schedule due to the weather.

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Supervisor's Report on Issues Affecting Oconee County Continued:

Council was in agreement with Mr. Hamilton's proposal that the Probate Judge use the Council Chambers for hearings and these hearings be scheduled with the Council Clerk.

Mr. Hamilton also informed Council that the Oconee School District is applying for a grant from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; Council authorized Mr. Hamilton to submit a letter of support for this grant.

SWAG Agreement:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that the attached SWAG Agreement be adopted with the understating of possible changes.

Ordinance 2004-01:

Third and final reading of Ordinance 2004-01, "AN ORDINANCE CREATING A COUNTY APPOINTED LAKEVIEW ASSISTED LIVING COMMISSION" was postponed awaiting a legal opinion from the Insurance Reserve Fund.

Ordinance 2004-03:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2004-03, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 4-3, SICK LEAVE POLICY, ORDINANCE 97-14" be adopted on second reading.

Budget & Finance Committee Recommendations:

Upon recommendation of the Budget & Finance Committee Council unanimously approved the following recommendations:

(1) The taking of \$65,000 from Miscellaneous Capital Improvements to grant each of the fire departments \$3,000; the rescue squads \$2,000 each and HAZMAT \$2,000

(2) The request of the City of Westminster for an aerial fire truck be referred to the Planning Commission with there being a mutual agreement between the municipalities, the Rural Fire Commission, Rural Fire Chief and Planning Commission

(3) Take \$30,000 from Miscellaneous Capital Improvements for repair of three damaged fire trucks

(4) The request for \$100,000 funding for the building at Tri County Technical College be referred to the Planning Commission

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Budget & Finance Committee Recommendations Continued:

(5) Ordinance 2004-04, "AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING THE COUNTY POLICY REQUIRING OCONEE COUNTY RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS, THE OCONEE COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM, OCONEE RESCUE SQUADS, THE OCONEE COUNTY SPECIAL RESCUE SQUAD AND THE OCONEE COUNTY DIVE TEAM TO SPEND ALL BUDGETED AMOUNTS WITHIN EACH FISCAL YEAR" be adopted on first reading

(6) Ordinance 2004-05, "AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE FALSE FIRE ALARMS TO WHICH OCONEE COUNTY RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS RESPOND" be adopted on first reading.

County Properties:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the identification, location, and inventory of all County owned properties be referred to the Planning Commission for possible liquidation.

Commission Appointment:

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that Betsy Comiskey be appointed to represent District II on the Tourism Commission.

County Flag:

Mr. Luther Lyle presented a flag to Council for their consideration, Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore this flag be adopted as the official Oconee County Flag. However, after considerable discussion, Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 3 – 2 (Mr. Johns & Mr. Moore voting against) that this motion be tabled.

Law Enforcement, Safety, Health, Welfare & Services Committee Recommendation:

Upon recommendation of the LEC Committee, Council voted unanimously to adopt the following recommendation:

(1) Ordinance 2004-02, "AN ORDINANCE REORGANIZING THE OCONEE COUNTY RURAL FIRE COMMISSION AND REPLACING ORDINANCE 2001-07" be adopted on first reading

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Sheriff's Department (Contingency):

By unanimous vote, Council adopted the recommendation of Mr. Rinehart that \$18,500 be taken from contingency for an investigator salary for the remainder of this fiscal year and it be looked at again during budget time.

Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee Recommendations:

Upon recommendation of the Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee, Council unanimously adopted the following recommendations:

(1) The relocation of a water line to the Rock Quarry Building be paid from remaining funds in the shop building line item

(2) A citizen's offer of \$1,000 for the old scales at the Rock Quarry be accepted

(3) The house at the airport be leased at \$400 per month with the lessor paying insurance on the building and maintaining the building

(4) The use of golf carts at the County parks be referred to the County Attorney and Parks Director

(5) The front of the Administrative Offices be renovated for additional office space

Personnel & Intergovernmental Recommendation:

Upon recommendation of the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee, Council voted 4 – 0 (Mr. Lyles out of room) to adopt Ordinance 2004-06, "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 97-14, THE OCONEE COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL, SPECIFICALLY POLICY 1-11, USE OF COUNTY VEHICLES" on first reading.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding front entrance to Administrative Offices, water, selling of county owned property, the Highway Patrol, support of Sheriff Singleton and use of county vehicles.

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Adjourn:

Adjourn 8:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green, Clerk to Council